THE

Borough of Daventry.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1939.

October, 1940.

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GLENARIFF HOUSE,
WEST HADDON,
RUGBY.

October 5th. 1940.

TO THE MAYOR
AND
MEMBERS OF THE
DAVENTRY BOROUGH COUNCIL.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-

Gentlemen,

I beg to present for your consideration my Annual Report dealing with the Sanitary conditions and the Health of the Borough during the year ending December 31st. 1939.

Owing to the War the Minister of Health suggests that the Report should be materially shortened, and owing to the same cause the statistics from the Registrar- General will not be available till the middle or end of the Summer, and the receipt of these should be awaited before completing the Report, this will explain why my Report is so late and very short.

AREA.

The area of the Borough is 3,633 acres.

POPULATION.

The population of the Borough by the Census of 1931 was 3,608; Males 1,783, Females 1,825, the population by the Census of 1921 was 3,518.

The Registrar-General estimates the population of the Borough in 1939 was (a) 3,695 for calculation of the Birth rate, and (b) 3,706 for calculation of the Death rate, so I am assuming that these figures are correct for the working out of the statistics of this Annual Report.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year 1939 according to the Rate books was 1,141.

NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS.

The number of Families or separate occupiers, according to the Census of 1931 was 980, by that of 1921 it was 913.

RATEABLE VALUE.

The rateable value of the Borough at the end of the year 1939 was £25,747, showing an increase of £3,053 in the twelve months.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE.

The sum represented by a penny rate, is estimated to produce £99. 12. 0d.

BIRTH RATE.

The number of living Births registered in the Town during the year was 52: Males 28, Females 24; of these three females were illegitimate.

The Birth Rate for the year is therefore 14.07 per 1.000 living, which is 0.93 below the provisional figures for England and Wales for the year 1939.

One legitimate female still-birth was registered in the Borough during the year.

DEATH RATE.

The number of deaths registered in the Town was 49; Males 26, Females 23; this gives a Death Rate of 13.22 per 1,000 for the year, and is 1.12 above the provisional figures for England and Wales for the year 1939.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There was only one death of an Infant under one year, a Female, legitimate, this gives a death rate of 19.23 per 1,000 births.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

The Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 1.07 per 1,000; and from Respiratory Diseases it was 0.80 per 1,000.

MORTALITY.

The Mortality from different causes during the year 1939, according to the return made to me by the Registrar-General was as follows :-

	MALE.	FEMALE.
Influenza	1	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis	4	0
G.P.I.,Tabis, etc.	1	0
Cancer.	3	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	0
Heart Disease	10	11
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	1
Bronchitis	1	0
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	0
Nephritis	0	2
Congenital Causes	1	0
Other violence	1	1
Other defined Diseases	0	2
TOTAL.	26	23

The figures and details on which these statistics are framed were not received by me from the Registrar-General per the County M.O.H. till October 2nd., this will explain why my report is so much later than usual.

NURSING.

There is a Child Welfare Centre in the Town, this and the Health Visiting are under the supervision of the County Council. The District Nursing arrangements which are maintained by voluntary contributions, are managed by a Local Committee; this Committee is affiliated to the Northampton County Nursing Association.

INFECTIOUS SICKNESS.

During the year 19[illegible] twelve cases of Infectious Sickness were notified to me as occurring in the Borough. In the following table are the particulars of all the cases which have been reported to me during the last five years, and they show how free the Town of Daventry is from infectious disease :-

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939.
Scarlet Fever	9	5	2	1	4
Diphtheria	1	2	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	1	1	2	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	2	4	7	4
Other Tuberculosis	1	0	1	1	1
Pneumonia	1	3	2	2	2
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	1
Puerperal Fever	2	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0	1	0	0
TOTALS	20	14	11	13	12

Two cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Staverton and recovered, the other cases were treated at home.

Measles and Whooping Cough became notifiable in the early part of the Winter, but no case of Measles was notified to me.

In all cases of the more serious forms of Infectious Sickness, the homes are immediately visited, and enquiries made to try, if possible, to establish the source of infection, the drains, etc., are examined, and the water and milk supply enquired into, the houses are thoroughly disinfected and every step taken to prevent any spread of the disease.

The notification of Tuberculosis in the Town is efficient, and no action or proceedings were necessary for wilful neglect. There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from this disease in any particular part of the Borough. Special attention is always paid to Tubercular cases, not only on behalf of the sufferers themselves but also for the sake of the other members of the families.

The following are the particulars as required by the Ministry of Health:-

	New Cases				Deaths.			
(Age	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary)		(Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
20	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
25	1	–	–	–	2	–	–	–
35	1	1	–	–	1	–	–	–
45	–	–	–		–	–	–	–
55	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–
65	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
65 and upward	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTALS	2	2	1	0	4	0	0	0

No special arrangements have been made for Bacteriological examinations, and I hardly think this is necessary, as when required, these can be carried out by the Pathologist at the General Hospital, Northampton.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The arrangements for the reception of infectious patients at the Staverton Isolation Hospital, which is now under the care of the Western Northamptonshire Joint-Hospital Board, were quite satisfactory during the year, only two Scarlet Fever cases had to be sent there, and both recovered.

During the last five years the following cases were removed from the Borough to the Staverton Isolation Hospital for treatment.

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939.
Scarlet Fever	9	5	2	1	2
Diphtheria	1	2	0	0	0

For non-infectious sickness, the Borough is within easy distance of the General Hospital, Northampton, or the Hospital of S Cross, Rugby, and for Tuberculosis cases there is the Sanatorium at Rushden, under the Northamptonshire County Council.

AMBULANCE.

The Borough has its own Ambulance for the removal of serious illness or accidents to one of the General Hospitals in Northampton or Rugby, this Ambulance was a new one, bought during 1938; for the removal of Infectious cases there is the Ambulance at Staverton Isolation Hospital, which is always available on very short notice.

SCHOOLS.

These are all in a very satisfactory state, and at no time during the year had I to advise the closing of a school on account of Infectious illness.

VACCINATION.

Little Vaccination has been done in the Borough during the twelve months, and none under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

INDUSTRY.

The chief trade of the Town is Boot and Shoe Manufacturing; this gives employment to many hundreds; and doubtless the British Broadcasting Corporation's Empire Transmitting Stations on Borough Hill also find some work for the inhabitants. There is also a large number of Agricultural Labourers working in the surrounding neighbourhood, who reside in the Town. The number of unemployed was less than in former years.

HOUSES.

Constant attention was given to the houses in the Borough, but during the year, owing to the War, only the work absolutely needed was demanded. There is no doubt that the condition of the cottage property in the Town is very different from what it was a few years ago. The following is a short summary of the chief work carried out:-

Number of dwellings inspected for defects	280
Number of inspections made	310
Number of dwellings inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	120
Number of inspections made for this purpose	12
Number of dwellings found to be not altogether fit	41
Number of dwellings rendered fit by informal action	36

Number of Dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 12
Number of dwellings in which defects were remedied by Owners after service of formal notices 7

During the last few years 91 houses have been demolished or otherwise dealt with, and 183 new houses built.

There is some overcrowding in the Town, chiefly due to the birth of infants, or Children reaching the age of ten years.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The drainage of the Town is quite satisfactory, all the sewage being carried to the Sewage Works and Farm for treatment. No river pollution can take place as there are only two small brooks near the Town, and these find their way into the Reservoir belonging to the Grand Union Canal.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging of the Town is carried out by the Corporation; all the house refuse and ashes are collected once a week and removed to an old brickyard off the London Road.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water supply of the Town is chiefly from the Corporation's own property at Dodford, where there is a deep spring in the middle lias, this though somewhat hard, is a perfectly pure supply.

There is also a Private supply of water from Borough Hill, which supplies many houses. This water is also perfectly pure.

FOOD AND MILK.

The Food supply of the Town is good, and the premises where it is stored or exposed for sale are quite satisfactory. No case of food poisoning was reported in the Borough during the year.

The milk supply is also good and there is a plentiful supply. The Sanitary Inspector in his report deals fully with the question of Food and Milk in the Borough.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The Factories Act, 1937, is carried out in this Town in a satisfactory manner; inspections were frequently made during the year, a few cases of defects under Part I of the above Act were noticed, but on attention being drawn to the matter they were at once rectified. There is no underground bakehouse in the Borough, and care has been taken to see that Bakers keep their bakehouses in a properly clean state, and that they are whitewashed at the regular periods.

STAFF.

The Public Health Officers of the Council are :-

G.E. Foster,	Clerk to the Borough Council.
A.R. Darley,	Medical Officer of Health.
J.B. Williams,	Consulting Surveyor.
A.J. Paxman,	Surveyor.
F. Bailey,	Sanitary Inspector.

Of the above five, the first three are part time Officers, while Mr. A.J. Paxman, Surveyor, and Mr. F. Bailey, Sanitary Inspector, both give their whole time to the work.

I append the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector in accordance with Article XX(16) of the Local Government Board's General

Order of 13th. December, 1910.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED R. DARLEY, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Borough of Daventry.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DAVENTRY BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Health, having decided that the report of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector for the year ending 31/12/39 is to be as brief as possible, I have excluded all matters from my report that the M.O.H. has included in his. During the past year 21 W.C.s have been built; 24 new pans fixed; 29 new flushers fixed; 33 flushers repaired and 48 W.C.s. cleared.

DRAINS.

Constructed 14, repaired 21, cleared 48, examined and tested 41.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. (See M.O.H.'s report.)

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND BUTCHER'S SHOPS.

At the commencement of the year there were 4 registered, 1 licensed and the Public Slaughter house in use in the Town.

From the 1st. of October all Slaughter houses were considered to be licensed, with 4 months of their time to go. All licences were renewed for 12 months and this will have to be done each year in future.

After the War, some of these premises will require to be altered, and if these alterations are not carried out, this Authority will have to consider the withdrawal of the licence.

Fifteen licences were issued to the Slaughtermen in the Town; 435 beast, 52 calves, 2,570 sheep and 2,610 pigs were slaughtered. Total for the year being 5,667 animals.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The number on the register is the same as last year.

All have been visited at frequent intervals, and have generally been found in a satisfactory state.

Eighteen samples of milk were taken and forwarded to the County Public Health Offices for examination.

The reports received were as follows :- 12 good, 3 moderate, and 3 bad.

This report is not as good as usual, in fact, with the exception of the reports for the year 1937, it is the worst report received during the past 8 years.

During this time 157 samples have been sent in, 116 returned as good, 4 as clean, 22 as moderate, and 15 as bad.

UNSOUND MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. All Butchers, fish shops and premises where food is prepared for sale are visited at frequent intervals, and very little cause for complaint has been found. Under Sec. 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, which came into force on the 1st. October 1939, all persons making sausages, pickling meat, frying fish, making or storing ice cream, have to register their premises for that purpose.

2 Licenses to manufacture and store ice cream, and 5 to store only were granted.

2 Licenses to fry fish, 6 to make sausages and pickle meat, and 7 licenses to prepare and cook meat were granted.

All premises were inspected and some alterations were made before the licenses were granted.

The slaughter houses have been visited on most days and the majority of the carcases inspected. The following being found diseased or unsound, was surrendered and destroyed:-

Beef, 3,400 lbs., Pork 1,150 lbs., Mutton 370 lbs., Fish 425 lbs., and cooked meats 65 lbs., Total 5,390 lbs.

PETROL STORES. The number in the Town is the same as last year. No cause for complaint was found.

NUISANCES. 73 complaints were received and 97 nuisances were found to exist after inspection. Preliminary Notices were served in each case and these were followed by 41 Statutory Notices, all of which were complied with, with the exception of 7 which were outstanding at the end of the year.

HOUSE INSPECTION. (See M.O.H.'s Report.)

OVERCROWDING. Several cases of overcrowding were relieved during the year, but others arose through the birth of children, or of Children attaining the age of 10 years.

The Council had made provision for building several four-bedroom houses, but owing to the outbreak of War this matter was deferred to a later date.

Five houses were disinfested during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937. Frequent visits have been made to the Factories in the Town during the year, and little cause for complaint was found. Two new Factories were added to the register.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES. There are two common lodging houses in the Town, both having been conducted in a satisfactory manner.

SANITARY DUST BINS. All houses in the Borough are now using a Bin which meets with the approval of your Council, and most of them are supplied with Galvanised Sanitary Bins.

RAT WEEK. The same procedure was followed during Rat Week as in previous years. Rat poison was distributed on application to persons not in a position to purchase it.

RECONDITIONING OF HOUSES. Some progress was made during the past year, but this was slowed up towards the end of the year by the difficulty in obtaining building material, especially timber.

WATER SUPPLY. During the year several of the Houses on the Borough Hill Supply, were without water for several weeks, and had to be supplied from the Corporation Water Mains.

Trusting this Report will meet with your approval,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK BAILEY,

Sanitary Inspector,

Borough of Daventry.